

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 IGA-02 EB-11

/174 W

----- 118399

R 181220Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AOONSUL HONG KONG 52

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 2228

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ML

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TRAORE TELLS ALL

1. PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE GAVE AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO L'AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN BAMAKO ON FRIDAY, JULY 13, AND FIELDLED QUESTIONS IN SEVERAL AREAS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF FRANKNESS. ASKED ABOUT THE MANANTALI DAM, PRESIDENT TRAORE STATED IN CLOUDY LANGUAGE THAT THE PROJECT'S COMPLEXITY NECESSITATED PRUDENCE. HIS ANSWER AND THE HASTY DEPARTURE OF MALIAN MIN OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MAMADI KEITA FOR THE US SEEM TO STRENGTHEN EMBASSY ANALYSIS (BAMAKO 2181) THAT CHINESE PUTTING OFF GOMSREMINDS TO BEGIN MANANTALI CONSTRUCTION IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT GOM MAY REQUEST US FINANCING OF  
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PROJECT (DAKAR 2924).

2. REGARDING THE DROUGHT, TRAORE SAID THAT THE GREATEST EFFORT WAS BEING CONCENTRATED IN THE V AND VI REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE LIVESTOCK LOSSES WERE 20 PERCENT AND 80 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. ALSO WHILE HE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THE CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL AID RELIEF EFFORT, HE DEPLORED CERTAIN UNNAMED PARTIES WHO WERE OVEREMPHASIZING THE EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT FOR PURPOSE OF DISCREDITING GOM.

3. SWITCHING TO FRANCO-MALIAN RELATIONS, PRESIDENT TRAORE SAID THAT MALI HAD NO PLANS TO CHANGE HER MONETARY ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE, I.E. SHE WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE FEBRUARY 27, 1967 AVTDN GIVING MALI HER OWN CURRENCY IN THE FRANC ZONE. KEATHT E SAME TIME, HE SUPPORTED THE MAURITANIAN DECISION TO LEAVE THE FRANC ZONE. ASKED IF MALI WOULD DEMAND REVISION IN HER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE, TRAORE SAID THAT RESPONSIBLE FRENCHMEN AND AFRICANS RECOGNIZE A DVTED TO ADAPT TO THE CONSTANT EVOLUTION OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FRANCE AND HER FORMER COLONIES, AND THAT CURRENT FRANCO-MALIAN AGREEMENTS REFLECT THIS.

4. PRESIDENT TRAORE WAS ASKED ABOUT THE NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. SURPRISINGLY HE SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WORKING ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION HAD FINISHED ITS WORK THAT DAY AND THAT ITS STUDY WAS BEING SENT TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, NOTHING IN HIS REMARKS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS MOVEMENT TOWARD CIVILIAN RULE.

5. AIRGRAM OF FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW IN FRENCH BEING POUCHED.  
KUNIHOLM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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